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BIG FREEDIA HELPS HUB GET TOGETHER {page 09}

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BOSTON
Wednesday, April 4, 2012

This is it: Officials to vote on fare increase

- Board members scheduled to decide on 23 percent hike during meeting today
- Metro breaks down what a 'yes' vote would mean for your commute {page 02}

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Dozens of MBTA riders held a vigil outside the Massachusetts State House yesterday calling for the T not to increase fares.

NBA

Hot Celtics set to tangle with gritty Spurs

- Rondo in prime-time matchup against Tony Parker
- Duncan-Garnett showdown a classic {page 14}

Steve Morse has got class

Former head music writer for the Globe on teaching rock history at Berklee {page 10}

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One vote away from major MBTA changes

Final vote on fare increases, cuts expected today ● MBTA financial advisor says 'this is it' ● MassDOT Board could still tweak the proposal

PHOTOS BY NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Protesters want to keep the T affordable.

▶ Dozens to MBTA riders held a vigil outside the Massachusetts State House throughout the evening calling for the T not to increase fares. The MassDOT Board is voting on the increase this afternoon.

It all comes down to this.

Months of protests, public hearings that drew thousands of commentators, and nearly 6,000 e-mails sent to T officials in regards to proposed MBTA fare hikes and service cuts have culminated to one final vote expected today.

The MassDOT Board of Directors is scheduled to decide on a proposal presented by MBTA interim General Manager Jon Davis and State Transportation Secretary Rich Davey to hike the price to ride the T by 23 percent.

If passed, starting July 1, riders using a CharlieCard will dole out an extra 25 cents to take the bus, and pay $2 to ride the subway, up from $1.70.

Students using transit will need to dig deeper in their pockets to cover the extra 15 cents for all modes of transportation while elderly riders will be asked to chip in 35 cents more for the bus, and a $1 for a single train trip.

Seniors who utilize The Ride are also facing an increase, and will be expected to pay $2 more for services in certain areas. Premium fares for The Ride will jump to $5.

For those using T ferries, the fare will skyrocket by 35 percent.

But the vote is not set in stone, according to T officials.

"As the ultimate authority on all things MBTA, the board can choose to adopt the recommendation, reject the recommendation, or adopt and modify the recommendation," said MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo.

If the board chooses to change anything within the proposal presented today, they would need to squeeze in another meeting in the next few weeks.

According to Pesaturo, by statute, the MBTA must have a budget for the current fiscal year approved by April 15.

An MBTA financial expert, however, said the board isn't likely to stall the decision any longer.

"Even if everyone is jumping up and down and screaming, they will vote to do it," said Brian Kane, financial analyst for the MBTA Advisory Board.

According to Kane, the directors "don't tend to change things that are presented by staff.

"I don't think they have an alternative. I think this is it."

STEVE ANNEAR
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What will be cut?

- A segment of the Green Line's E branch on weekends
- Weekend service on Needham, Kingston-Plymouth and Greenbush lines
- Four bus routes in the Greater Boston area
- Sixteen bus routes will be modified in and around Boston

No more Mr. Nice Guy

- Last week, protesters dressed as superheroes hijacked a board meeting, shutting it down.
- MBTA officials said extra security would be on hand to help ensure that today's meeting is conducted in an orderly fashion
- Security personnel from the state Transportation building will be active throughout the meeting.
- MBTA Advisory Board members said T officials will "attempt to keep the crowd small."
- Several groups of protesters plan on making their disapproval clear at today's hearing

METRO/SA

Pulling an all-night

More than 20 people were committed to sleeping over on the steps of the State House last night, leading up to the final vote by the MassDOT Board of Directors.

Members from the Youth Affordabili(T) Coalition, Massachusetts Senior Action Council and T Riders Union rallied on Beacon Hill, holding a 24-hour vigil in protest of the proposed fare increases.

The groups called on Gov. Deval Patrick to intervene before the final vote today. METRO/SA

In the news

5,944

Number, in pounds, of toxic chemicals dumped into Massachusetts' waterways each year, according to a new report released yesterday by Environment Massachusetts. The report claims that 3,000 pounds of chemicals dumped into Bay State waterways in 2010 were allegedly linked to illnesses. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Red Line moving like Dick Cheney's arteries pre-by-pass. Slow and steady wins the race? #MBTA."

@PATTICUS ON THE RELATIVELY SLOW SPEED OF THE MORNING TRAIN.

BU newspaper editor resigns amid outrage

BOSTON. The editor-in-chief of Boston University's student-run newspaper resigned after an April Fools' Day issue of the paper featured Disney characters being raped or doing drugs.

According to a message posted on The Daily Free Press website, Editor-in-Chief Chelsea Diana was asked to step down from her role and agreed to do so after Monday's issue sparked campus outrage. METRO

Obama's uncle may be deported

FRAMINGHAM. Federal immigration officials are examining the possibility of deporting President Barack Obama's uncle, Onyango Obama, after he failed to follow deportation orders in 1992.

The renewed effort comes after his drunken driving case was recently resolved, according to the Globe. He was granted a hardship license this week. METRO

Quoted

"Knowing what I know then and even what I know today I would do it again."

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Central Square in Cambridge was the site of a heroin bust.

Heroin sweep nets 17 in Central Square

A months-long investigation and effort to rid the Central Square area of drugs culminated last week with the arrest of 10 people on drug-related charges.

Dubbed "Operation Booting Heroin," the sweep was initiated in response to "an increase in drug distribution and heroin use within Central Square," according to police.

The neighborhood has also experienced an increase in overdose-related emergency calls and a recent stabbing.

"The work ... resulted in many drugs being recovered and will hopefully have the effect of showing that drug use and distribution will not be tolerated — not only in Central Square, but throughout Cambridge," said Deputy Superintendent Paul Ames.

Seven people were arrested for drug charges during the first portion of the sweep last summer and fall.

The final phase of the sweep took place Thursday and Friday. METRO/MN

MIT researcher accused of soliciting sex from mother, young daughters

▶ Segal

Authorities have charged a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for allegedly setting up a sexual encounter with a mother and her two underage daughters. However, the woman was actually a federal agent.

Yaron Segal, 30, allegedly flew to Colorado Wednesday for the rendezvous with the mother but met federal authorities instead.

A federal complaint alleges that Segal, an Israeli citizen and postdoctoral associate at an MIT lab, started talking with the agent while both were in chat rooms named "childslavesex" and "childrapetorturebrutality."

The undercover agent said she had two daughters, one younger than 16 years old and another younger than 12.

"The suspect immediately turned the conversation to sex, and indicated that he wanted to have sexual intercourse with the [agent] and both of her children," according to the federal complaint.

Lawyer's retort

1. Segal's attorney, Rick Kornfeld, said his client plans to challenge the allegations and charges.
2. Kornfeld also said that Segal has no prior criminal history and served in the Israel Defense Force.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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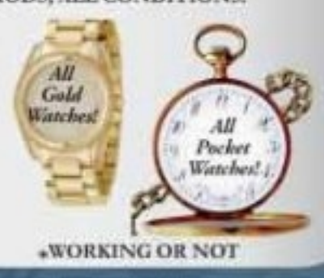

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Hope hangs inside T's South Station

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

▶ A shirt on display

Scores of T-shirts hang inside South Station now, each designed by a survivor of sexual abuse who included personal and bold messages.

"Where is the justice," reads one shirt. "I love you daddy but ... you tried to kill me and I will never forget," read another shirt.

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center put the shirts on display yesterday for sexual assault awareness month.

The awareness effort comes as a woman recently reported being indecently assaulted while walking in the North End and the editor of Boston University's student newspaper resigned over a joke edition about rape and other assaults.

Those who spoke during yesterday's kick-off event urged people to start a dialogue about sexual abuse.

"Sexual assault may be a difficult issue to discuss, but we must do so because everyone in the Commonwealth has a valuable role to play," said Lt. Governor Tim Murray.

Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley, who has said that she is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and sexual assault as an adult, praised the T-shirt display as powerful.

"The messages are sobering, and they will make you uncomfortable — and I think that's a good thing, because it's the only way we can be sure we will never grow complacent in our advocacy," she said.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

For support

- The seventh annual Walk for Change along the Charles River will be held April 22. Hundreds of walkers will raise money for free services provided by the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.
- For more information or help visit www.barcc.org or call 800-841-8371.

Hubway. Kickoff

▶ It was a beautiful day for a bike ride.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Hubway opens for the season

Mayor Thomas Menino joined officials from the New Balance Hubway program to announce that all 61 stations around the city will open this week. The Hubway system will also offer new locations with bike sharing spots at the Boston Convention Center, the Seaport Hotel and Downtown. Hubway is finalizing contracts to stretch to Cambridge, Brookline and Somerville to open more than 30 more stations later this year. METRO

Boston entrepreneur lost in ravine while hiking

White Mountain authorities temporarily suspended their search yesterday for a Boston man who fell down a crevasse while hiking on Sunday.

Officials said local entrepreneur Norman Priebatsch was hiking around 3:30 p.m. above the tree line with three others when he fell, slid over a rock band and continued down a slope before falling into a deep crevasse.

Those hiking with him yelled to him but heard no response, said Tiffany Benna, White Mountain National Forest public affairs officer.

The accident site will be monitored for changing conditions before recovery efforts resume. Search and rescue teams are evaluating weather and snow conditions and may have new information as early as today, according to reports.

Priebatsch is the father of 23-year-old Seth, founder of the Cambridge start-up company Scvngr. **STEVE ANNEAR**

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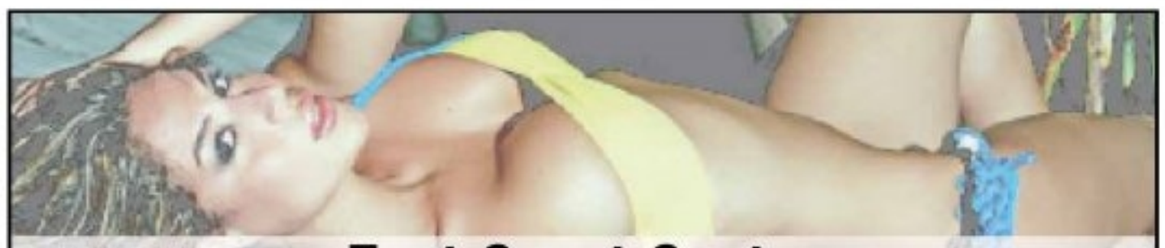

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Neil Patrick Harris has a ridiculous amount of Twitter followers, Chris Colfer is a hazard in the kitchen, Oprah Winfrey thinks you should calm down and Sarah Silverman is learning a thing or two.

@ActuallyNPH
I wanna give my 3 millionth (!) follower something cool. How would one quantify that? Is there some sort of log?

@chriscolfer
When I cook it's pretty dangerous...

@Oprah
Anyone tried meditation? Keeps the peace inside yourself.

@SarahKSilverman
Adele's taught us that u don't have to be skinny to be a music star- u just have to be the most beautiful woman in the world ever.

Winfrey

Levi Johnston strikes again

Johnston's johnson strikes again!

Levi Johnston, a high-school dropout who is famous for knocking up someone kind of famous from an infamous political family, is using his super sperm to get back into the news (and menstrual) cycle: It was announced yesterday that the 21-year-old is expecting a baby with his Wasilla, Ala., schoolteacher girlfriend, **Sunny Oglesby**, 20. She is allegedly three months pregnant.

TMZ.com reports that Johnston is "so excited" about having a new baby out of wedlock since **Bristol Palin** (along with her mom and dad) hasn't been too accommodating about him seeing his son **Tripp**.

I know Alaska is remote, but if **Sarah Palin** could see Russia from her house, how hard could it be for Johnston to spot a stack of Trojans at the Rite Aid?

Singing camp songs with Josh Groban

▶ Groban performed at A Celebration of Paul Newman's Dream on Monday night.

The stars came out for A Celebration of **Paul Newman**'s Dream on Monday night at New York City's Lincoln Center to pay tribute to the late actor and his SeriousFun Children's Network, which sends sick children around the world to summer camp. Though performer **Trisha Yearwood** told us she had never spent her summers by the campfire, and **Elvis Costello** didn't take part across the pond ("They didn't have them in England. They barely had tent pegs," he said), we did get to hear about singer **Josh Groban**'s warm weather adventures.

"One of the reasons I'm here tonight is because my summer camp experience was so awesome," he told Metro. "One was in Maine and one was in Michigan. [One] was called Interlochen and the other one was called Camp Winona. I canoed and I did archery and I sang; I was in theater there. It was just great."

But Groban's just being humble. That would be the famed Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan he's referring to, which is kind of like the summer camp version of Juilliard. So even as a boy, he was melting the hearts of people everywhere with that voice of his. — *With additional reporting by Meredith Engel*

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Talking points

▶ Rihanna wants to portray Whitney Houston in a biopic about the late singer.

Brand gives it all to Perry

Russell Brand was apparently serious when he said he didn't want anything from **Katy Perry** in their divorce, as the British comedian has reportedly given Perry all the rights to the $6.5 million Hollywood Hills home they purchased while married, according to TMZ. "It's all part of the property settlement agreed between Russell and Katy," a source says. Perry and Brand snatched up the eight-bedroom, nine-bathroom home six months before Brand filed for divorce. They had no signed prenuptial agreement.

Kutcher fights with Bieber over home

Ashton Kutcher has been enjoying his rented Hollywood Hills bachelor pad so much that he decided to buy it, according to TMZ. So what spurred the sudden decision? Competition from **Justin Bieber**, who was reportedly eyeing the $10.8 million property. "I had to buy the house, because I thought he was going to buy it out from under me," Kutcher joked during an interview with **Jimmy Kimmel**. "I was like, 'I don't want to lose this house.' He forced me to buy a house."

Winfrey can admit when she's wrong

Oprah Winfrey admits she's made some mistakes in the early days of her new TV network, OWN. "Had I known that it was this difficult, I might have done something else," Winfrey said in an interview with the CBS "Early Show" this week. "I didn't think it was going to be easy — but if I knew then what I know now, I might have made different choices. If I were writing a book about it, I could call the book '101 Mistakes.'" So what would Winfrey do differently, knowing what she knows now? "I would have probably waited until I actually finished 'The Oprah Show,'" she says.

Rihanna to tackle Houston?

Rihanna has her sights set on the role of a lifetime: playing **Whitney Houston** in a biopic about the late singer. "That would be something that I would have to give my entire life to do, because I would really want to pull it off," she tells the Press Association. "My first song that I remember falling in love with was a Whitney Houston song: 'I Will Always Love You.' It was really inspiring, and it made me develop a passion for music. So really, she's partly responsible for me being here in this industry." Of course, first there needs to be a movie to star in, and while producer **Clive Davis** was reportedly putting one together, his rep has shot down that rumor, saying, "There is no truth to this."

Killing boredom in Boston Together

Electronic music festival in its third year not only brings international acts, but showcases local talent as well ◗ There's more than just booty-shaking here

DANIELLE LEVITT

▶ Big Freedia is at Brighton Music Hall on Friday.

Now in its third year, the Together music festival serves as further evidence of the depth of creativity and community in the electronic music scene at large. Beginning this past Monday and running through Sunday, Together takes place at 25 venues around the city. The fest offers a loaded slate of performances from some of Boston's — and the world's — top DJ and producer talent. The lineup also includes daytime panels, art installations and tech demonstrations.

Some of the top draws include the influential electronic label Ninja Tune's showcase at Great Scott tonight, the ecstatic party styles of the "sissy bounce" act Big Freedia and the Divas at Brighton Music Hall on Friday, hugely influential and innovative producer Photek on Saturday at Think Tank and the hip-hop-driven, master sampling skills of RJD2 at the Paradise on Sunday.

"If you would have told me three years ago these names would be playing our festival I would have laughed in your face," co-founder David Day says.

International names are the linchpin of a successful festival, but Together's organizers are most interested in fostering, and showcasing, the sense of collaboration and community in the New England electronic music world.

"We're definitely excited that the city has embraced us," says partner Alex Maniatis. "The most exciting thing is seeing all of the young talent rise up in producer culture. We want to continue to promote the progress of a culture, blending music, art and technology to create something forward-thinking together."

LUKE O'NEIL
luke.oneil@metro.us

Learn and party

What else is there to do besides dance and party this week?

Each year, the festival gets bigger and the event schedule expands, explains Day. New England premieres of documentaries "Don't Think" and "Electric Daisy Carnival Experience" are two revelatory film standouts, while an installation at the Mobius Gallery provides an artistic entry point. "Contributions from visionaries like Echo Nest's Paul Lamere and [MIT Media Lab's] Joe Paradiso lend us huge credibility," he says. "Art hackbuild events like the Hack Together and Whirl are crazy fun."

Full schedule and ticket and pass info at www.togetherboston.com

COURTESY OF REDLIGHT IMAGES

▶ Photek is at Think Tank on Saturday.

ROGER KISBY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jerome, left, and Sampha play tonight at 7 at The Paradise (967 Comm. Ave., Boston). Visit livenation.com for details.

Adding to SBTRKT

Although some might suggest that SBTRKT bridges the boundaries between DJ-produced electro and traditional rock, he says he doesn't let anything like genre stand in the way of composition.

"In terms of writing music, I don't think about boundaries," says Aaron Jerome, the U.K.-based producer who becomes SBTRKT when he puts on an African-themed mask and gets behind a console. "I think there are so many facets of music out there — I'm just going to keep trying different ideas."

Best known for the smooth electropop single "Wildfire," Jerome spent March cruising music festivals — from the all-encompassing SXSW conference in Texas to electronic-focused Ultra Music Festival in Miami.

SBTRKT refers to the idea that Jerome is "subtracting" his personal identity from the music. Unlike other electro acts, who perform hunched over buttons, SBTRKT focuses on live performance using live drums and collaborating with singer Sampha.

"I try to use the best instruments possible for each environment," says Jerome.

And after the recording is completed, he says the songs continue to evolve in a live setting.

"Every week, I'm adding new sounds, new synths," he says. "[The songs] are constantly developing and writing themselves."

In touring through the U.K., Australia and now the U.S., the one thing that Jerome has noticed about SBTRKT crowds is the reaction.

"It's always kind of crazy that the songs you create have meaning in the world," he says. **CHRIS LEO PALERMINO**

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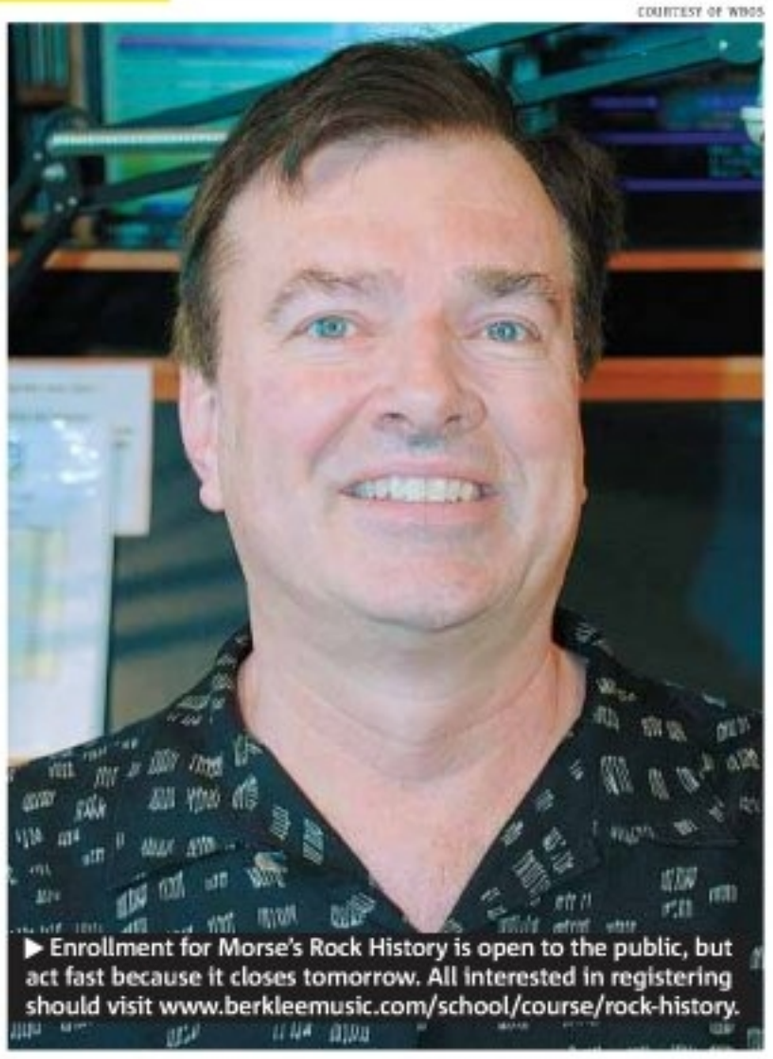
PROFESSOR OF ROCK

The Globe's former head music writer on his new history course at Berklee
How a little bit of his remorse fits with the school's re-Morse

COURTESY OF WBGS



▶ Enrollment for Morse's Rock History is open to the public, but act fast because it closes tomorrow. All interested in registering should visit www.berkleemusic.com/school/course/rock-history.

Steve Morse is probably the only person in town who can say he shared a bottle of Jack with Bruce Springsteen, slapped high fives with Jim Morrison and had Bono give a speech at his retirement party.

With experiences like that, the former head music writer for The Boston Globe could teach a class in the history of rock 'n' roll. That's exactly what the folks at Berklee College of Music thought: They handpicked Morse to come up with a 12-session online class called Rock History, beginning this week.

The timing couldn't be better, as rock 'n' roll is finally reaching an age where a historical context is becoming a necessity (The Rolling Stones celebrate 50 years together this month!). Younger music fans and musicians such as Berklee students should be able to learn about some of the figures that Wikipedia might forget. Morse says his course begins in the '30s, touching upon rock's origins in the blues.

"In the early years, it's easier because in the '50s there's a finite number of performers," Morse says, "but when you get into the '80s, especially in the MTV era and the explosion of the one-hit wonders, and the alternative and metal explosions, that's when it seems like an infinite number of possibilities to deal with."

But the infinite amount of artists is just a minor challenge; Morse lived through so much of this history. He estimates that while he was at the Globe, he went to about 250 concerts every year for 30 years.

"I tell people that in between my marriages I went to 300 a year," he says with a full-bodied laugh. "It's been an ultimate challenge to synthesize all of this information from my life and keep it on an academic level and also put in personal touches and weave it together."

With so many unique experiences, one has to wonder if Morse will ever write an autobiography.

"I started a memoir, and eventually hope to finish it," he says. "But everybody's got a memoir these days. How many people have a rock history course at Berklee?"

PAT HEALY
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Berklee (slight return)

This is not the first time Morse has worked for Berklee. After graduating from Brown and teaching social studies for two years, Berklee hired him to work on a newsletter.

"Within five months I was booted," he says, after someone caught him calling the Globe to pitch stories. He has a sense of humor about how he's come full-circle since the early 1970s.

"I felt I owed Berklee something after fizzling out and getting fired all those years ago."

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theater & arts guide

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NINTENDO GOES HARDCORE

Sidescroller
LAWRENCE BONK
LAWRENCE.BONK@METRO.US

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Nintendo often gets pigeonholed as the "kiddy" company. The safe company. The company you can cuddle with all night long without getting steamy. Still, Nintendo isn't just Pikachus and lollipops. It can crank out true hardcore gaming experiences with the best of them. Why, here are two right now:

'Kid Icarus Uprising'
Console: 3DS
Company: Nintendo
Grade: ●●●●●

Back in the Reaganized '80s, Nintendo released "Kid Icarus" for the NES. Fans thought the surreal take on Greek mythology was going to be another mega franchise like Zelda or Mario. Those fans are now middle-aged and bereft of any real interests, but their dream finally came true. "Kid Icarus Uprising" is the true sequel people have waited 25 years for, and it's a doozy.

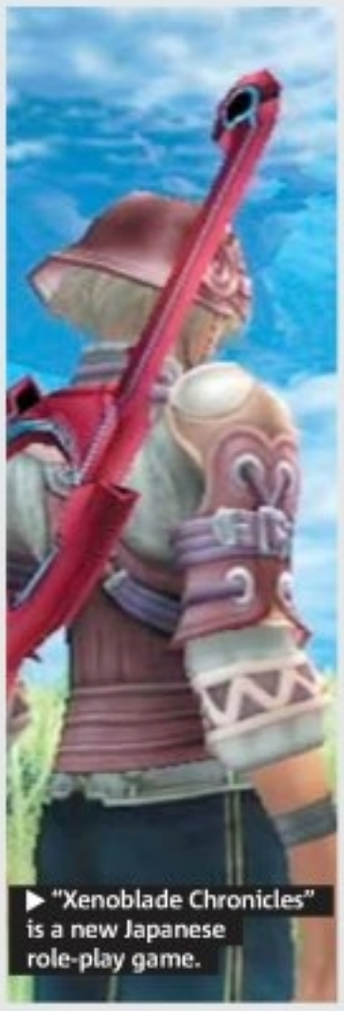
The game is an odd mix of ground-based exploration with sky-based shooting. Consider it the beautiful marriage of Super Smash Bros. and Starfox. The controls take some getting used to, but the game's 90 difficulty levels (really) and near unlimited customization options more than make up for it. Playing online is a blast, too.

▶ Kid Icarus makes his comeback.

'Xenoblade Chronicles'
Console: Wii
Company: Nintendo
Grade: ●●●●○

Nintendo was all set to deny North America this dose of JRPG goodness until a fan campaign changed its mind. Now we can enjoy the fruits of their labor and dust off the old Wii for one last, grand adventure.

In many ways, this feels like the epic Final Fantasy title we didn't get this generation. There is a lush world that is open and ready to be explored. There is lots and lots of story and plenty of dialog. Also, for those hesitant to embrace the genre, there are no random battles and a brilliant real-time combat system. It feels like a JRPG made for Western audiences. Clear your schedule, though. It takes more than 60 hours to beat.


▶ "Xenoblade Chronicles" is a new Japanese role-play game.

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Health notes

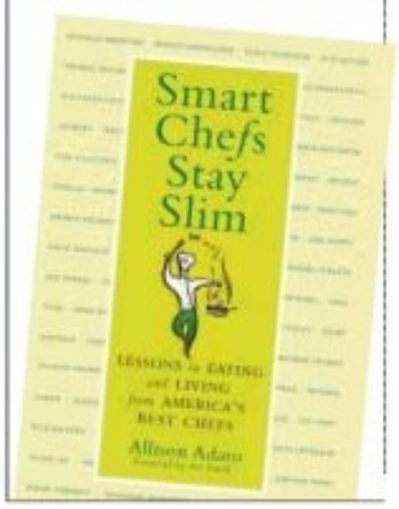
Free food alert

Mayor Menino has declared today, April 4, Whole Grain Sampling Day. Search the #SampleWholeGrains hashtag on Twitter to find out where you can try out some whole grain bites — at 9 a.m., for example, head to Boston University (Granby Parking Lot, 635 Comm. Ave.), at 11 a.m., swing by the Boston Police Department Headquarters (One Schroeder Place) and at 1 p.m., hit Emerson College (100 Boylston St.) to score freebies. Just look for the whole grains duck boat!

▶ Allison Adato

Pro diet tips

Ever wonder how so many chefs make a career out of eating and still stay thin? Author Allison Adato did too. She reached out to big-name cooks like Marcus Samuelsson, Tom Colicchio and Jacques Torres (who makes chocolate for a living!) to learn their secrets for her book, "Smart Chefs Stay Slim." Among her findings: Cat Cora and Wolfgang Puck cook healthy meals for their kids (and then eat those same meals with them), and Eric Ripert has a bite of dark chocolate just about each day. Bonus: The book is peppered with recipes from the star chefs themselves. METRO/ME



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Letters

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Too much of a good thing? Very bad

RE: "CARBON DIOXIDE IS NECESSARY FOR ALL PLANT LIFE TO PRODUCE OXYGEN": According to Mr. Dupont, evidently, we should let coal plants just keep going — and hell, why not even let them burn more because plants use carbon dioxide to make oxygen? Well, Mr. Dupont, the human body needs water to survive, so I assume as well that you would like everyone to drink their body's weight in water every day. (FYI: This would result in death due to water toxicity.) Just because something is good and needed in certain amounts doesn't mean you can increase the amount 500-fold and not have negative consequences. I would also like to point out to Mr. Dupont that we also are still cutting down large amounts of the rain forest, which — as I am sure he knows being an expert on photosynthesis — is responsible for the majority of the carbon dioxide absorbtion in the world, resulting in lower and lower CO2-to-O2 conversion. So if you want to bash Obama then please feel free, all I ask is that you pick something true and don't twist it with insane and false logic into a horrible parody of a scientific fact to back up the disproved idea of fossil fuels being super awesome for Earth. **DOUG BROWN, VIA E-MAIL**

Joseph Dupont's third-grade understanding of science leads him to state that we needn't worry about carbon dioxide, since it's necessary for plant life to produce oxygen. Did you know that hydrochloric acid is necessary for us to digest food? Or that sulfur compounds are essential components of amino acids that allow us to live? Would we want these chemicals building up in large quantities in our atmosphere? No. **ALBERT FRENTE, VIA E-MAIL**

The need to further educate our populous in basic science/history is clearly shown in some of these Metro letters. **COLLIN TUKAY, VIA E-MAIL**

Joseph DuPont says carbon dioxide is needed for plant life to produce oxygen. True, but carbon monoxide is needed to be released by the oil and coal industries to reap obscene profits while polluting our environment. What a coincidence that Mr. DuPont shares his last name with a company that has a record as one of the worst polluters in history. **ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
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On a wish and a prayer: Unhealthy

RE: "IT COMES DOWN TO FAITH: PRAYER WORKS": "There is no evidence that prayer does not help those who are ill." Is that seriously an argument, that something is true unless affirmatively disproved? Society is doomed. **MARY SMITH, VIA E-MAIL**

I've sore news: There actually is evidence that prayer does not help those who are ill. A major study found no medical benefits for those randomized to be included in prayers after heart surgery. Even if this finding was not the case, the human animal would do well to realize what prayer truly is — talking and wishing to oneself. Or, as in a group, talking and wishing among others. The mind is unique and transformative, no doubt, and we should take full, unabashed ownership of this fact. **STEVEN AHERN, BOSTON**

Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** There is an abundance of opportunities around you — but unless something in particular interests you, you're likely to ignore them all. Don't let this be a do-nothing day.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Although you have an abundance of friends with whom to share the day, there is likely to be one ineffective acquaintance who will serve as a detractor. Don't let him or her spoil the fun.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you find yourself devoting too much time to trivial activities, put a stop to it as early in the day as you can. Once you get in gear, you can accomplish all your big objectives.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Even if your reasoning skills aren't as sharp as they usually are, you'll still be alert enough to get a reasonable amount done in a successful manner. It should be a decent day for you.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Your chances for generating substantial material returns are excellent but, of course, it will be up to you to actually do so. Don't just talk a good game, jump in and play.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Others will verify that you're the one who is making a major contribution to a joint endeavor, yet you won't see it.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Trust your luck, because developments over which you seem to have little control will be the ones that shower you with the largest rewards.

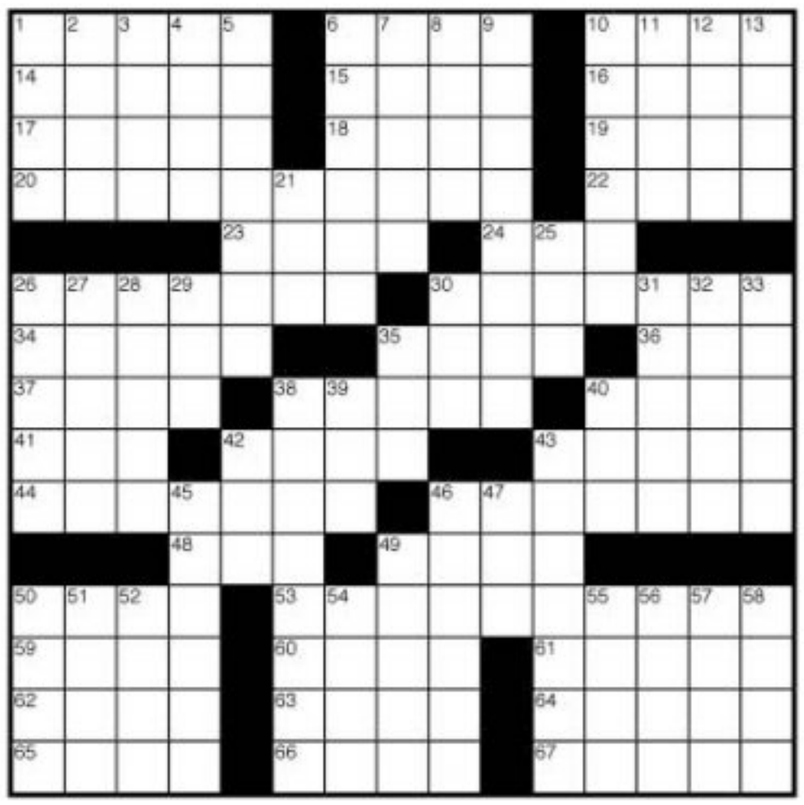
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Avail yourself of a new organization or club that will give you a chance to mingle and meet with a number of influential people. Some of these big shots could become your buddies.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** When it comes to career-related issues, don't hide your light under a bushel. If you believe that you have a constructive idea to contribute, make your concept known.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Whether or not you believe your social life is at a high point, there are some strong indicators that it is about to get even better. Someone fascinating and dynamic is about to enter the scene.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** A transformation that you've been wishing would take place is about to happen. It will not only benefit you, but your loved ones or a close buddy as well.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You might have a hard time believing it, but if you stand back a minute you would see that it is not only the other fella who is getting all the concessions — it's you, too. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



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1 Fallback strategy (2 wds.)
6 St. Louis gateway
10 Warrior princess
14 Mead subject
15 Seneca's student
16 Hearty loaves
17 "Don't tell __ __!"
18 Piggy's dinner
19 Fringe __
20 Reconsider (2 wds.)
22 Coastal flier
23 With, to Maurice
24 Membership dues
26 Conference
30 Snuggled
34 Collect
35 Two pounds, plus
36 S&L offering
37 "B.C." cartoonist
38 Hotel staffers
40 Pooch's comment
41 A crowd, for Caesar?
42 Force
43 Owned apartment
44 Not subtle
46 Gander (hyph.)
48 __-Wan Kenobi
49 Volcano goddess
50 Elapse
53 Pond makers (2 wds.)
59 Whiffenpoofs
60 Doing nothing
61 Terra __
62 Hamster's digs
63 Hull bottom
64 Smooths out
65 Cell-phone button
66 Boundaries
67 No rocket scientist

Down
1 11th-grade exam
2 Tie down
3 Mine, to Pierre
4 Any thing
5 Albania, Bulgaria
6 Grab the phone
7 Keepsake
8 Gator kin
9 Starlets, e.g.
10 Adult (hyph.)
11 Rochester's Jane
12 Not e'en once
13 Strong __ __ ox
21 Rural elec. provider
25 Ancient Tokyo
26 Raj title
27 Modern memo
28 "They Call the Wind __"
29 Devotee
30 Scotland Yard div.
31 Wildebeest chasers
32 Carve a canyon
33 Actor Willem __
35 First-aid box
38 Small motorcycle
39 Colony member
40 Stir-fry pan
42 Tiny bit
43 Strong-armed
45 Flung
46 Razes
47 Oxford's __ Miss
49 Turned white
50 Bodybuilder's pride
51 Wings, in botany
52 Omen
54 Utopia
55 Went in headfirst
56 Ra's symbol
57 Natural elevs.
58 Business letter encl.

4	3						2	
8					9			
	1	6	3			8		
5				7		3	1	
3	7			9			8	6
	8	1		5				9
		5			7	6	3	
			8					4
	9						5	7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

9						5		
			3	6	1	2	7	9
			4	9				
			8	5				2
5		1				8		6
3				1	2			
				7	9			
2	9	5	6	3	4			
		7						4

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

B	A	L	S	A	■	I	L	I	A	D	■	U	R	N
A	G	A	I	N	■	M	E	R	C	I	■	N	E	O
R	U	G	B	Y	■	B	A	K	E	S	A	L	E	S
B	A	G	■	T	O	U	R	■	G	U	I	S	E	■
■	■	A	S	I	D	E	■	S	P	U	R	T	E	D
C	H	R	O	M	E	■	B	O	S	S	A	■	■	■
L	A	D	L	E	■	R	O	A	S	T	■	W	H	O
E	L	L	E	■	C	O	O	P	T	■	Y	E	A	R
F	L	Y	■	J	I	V	E	S	■	A	V	A	I	L
■	■	T	U	N	E	D	■	M	E	E	K	L	Y	■
C	O	A	R	S	E	R	■	M	O	R	S	E	■	■
I	S	L	E	T	■	■	S	O	S	O	■	N	I	P
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	O	■	S	H	I	N	E
I	K	E	■	O	S	C	A	R	■	O	U	N	C	E
C	A	Y	■	W	E	E	P	S	■	L	E	G	A	L

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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3

In the news

Sox's Bailey to have surgery

Andrew Bailey will have surgery on his right thumb today and is expected to be out of action for at least three months. Mark Melancon will now see time as the closer. METRO

THE NBA'S OLD GUARD

Celtics, Spurs winning big despite advanced age ◗ Tony Parker the fuel that runs the San Antonio ship ◗ Big matchup with Rondo ◗ What to look for as two of the NBA's finest collide

Three storylines to watch as the Spurs invade TD Garden tonight (7:30, CSN).

Spurs? Who are they?

Nobody is talking about the Spurs. They aren't — for lack of a better word — sexy. They aren't exciting, they'll rarely take your breath away or fill up the highlight reel, and they don't get talked about by the masses or garner much national attention. But they do one thing well, and have been doing it well since drafting Tim Duncan way back when — they win. This season has been no exception. The Spurs are 36-14 this season, second in the Western Conference behind the Thunder. They're the hottest team in the NBA currently, winners of seven in a row and 10 of their last 11. The Celtics have had two days to prepare for San Antonio, and are winners of five in a row themselves.

Tony time

San Antonio's Tony Parker has had a year of rejuvenation as he is averaging 19.3 ppg and 8 assists.

Allen or Bradley?

Perhaps the most talked about Celtics topic as of late is whether or not Ray Allen should get his starting job back when he presumably returns tonight. Consider the issue overrated. Regardless of who starts, both players have earned the right to play 30-plus minutes per game, and unless coach Doc Rivers goes heavily in one direction, the starter won't matter as much as the finisher. Both Allen and Avery Bradley have opposite strengths, which is great for the Celtics late in games. You want Allen in the game for free throw purposes late, but you also want Bradley in for his defense. If the C's are down, you'll see Allen in there, if they're up, there's a better chance of seeing Bradley.

Key matchups

Just as the Celtics success relies on Rajon Rondo, the Spurs ride heavily on Tony Parker. Parker has remained a top-tier point guard in the NBA, playing 34.0 minutes per game this season. Kevin Garnett will go toe-to-toe with Tim Duncan at center in a matchup between future Hall of Famers.

JIMMY TOSCANO
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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ray Allen is likely to get the start tonight.

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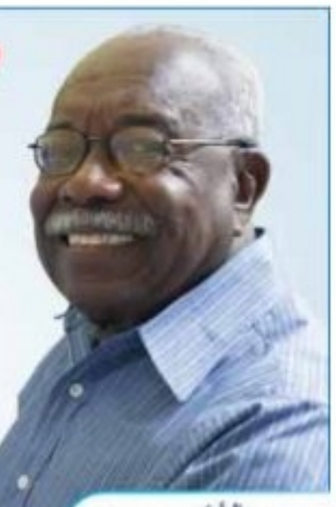

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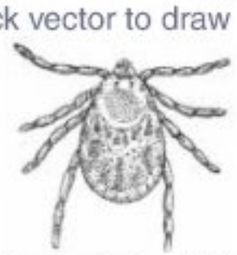

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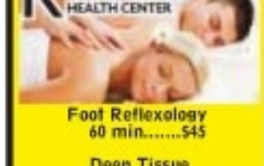
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MEDICAID – WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE!

By Attorney George Warshaw

Third in a Medicaid series

To qualify for Medicaid a person has to meet a limited income test and a limited asset test. The threshold amounts differ for married and unmarried persons. This article focuses on your assets.

Take everything you and your spouse own, throw them into a single pot, and then remove a few approved items. The government then counts or adds up the value of what's left over. If these countable assets add up to too much, you don't qualify.

If you don't qualify, you must sell and spend your "countable assets" in a permissible way.

Think of it as a two-column list. **Column A** is the government's list of what you must first sell or spend before you qualify. **Column B** is your list of what you can keep. It's your safe harbor.

Your home is usually protected. It's in your column; but if you put your home into a revocable trust, it usually shifts to the government's sell and spend Column. If you are unmarried and the equity in your home is $750,000 or more (you should be so lucky!), your home shifts to the government's sell and spend Column.

Be careful! Always consult an Elder Care Attorney for your Medicaid situation. This article provides general information only, not legal advice.

Next week, Medicaid's Penalty Box! © 2012 George Warshaw.

GWA

George Warshaw is a real estate and estate planning attorney in Massachusetts. He represents buyers and sellers of homes and condos in Massachusetts, and prepares wills, trusts for individuals and families. George welcomes new clients and questions at metro@warshawlaw.com.

at home with metro

The less there is, the more they'll pay

Low housing inventory in Cambridge is causing a feeding frenzy among spring homebuyers Other cities are experiencing similar selling vigor, too

Henry Aime Amar has a little extra time on his hands this spring. Amar, a realtor at Remax Destiny Cambridge (www.yourguidehome.com) who handles properties in Cambridge and surrounding cities, isn't inactive because of any housing market slump, though. He just sold his last three listings, which had multiple offers at asking price, and even above that. Amar just doesn't have enough properties for the demand.

"As of the end of March, we are experiencing a low housing inventory in Cambridge that most sellers I spoke to find hard to believe," says Amar. "Also, even if it's not as pronounced as Cambridge, this is happening in adjacent cities like Watertown, Arlington and Somerville."

"I don't expect this will last, but it's been an astounding start to the year."
AMAR, ON TRAFFIC TO OPEN HOUSES

Apart from his own experience, Amar refers to the Boston Association of Realtors website's recent report comparing February 2012's inventory of single-family homes and condominiums in Boston and surrounding cities to those from February 2011. In one year, Cambridge listings dropped almost 50 percent.

"It shows a decline of 49.3 percent in Cambridge, 23 percent in Boston, 29 percent in Watertown, 28 percent in Arlington and 23 percent in Somerville," quotes Amar. "This has direct consequences and we see huge traffic at first open houses, and we see multiple bids at asking price and more. I don't expect this will last, but it's been an astounding start to the year."

You snooze, you lose. But even if you don't snooze, you'll still have to pay a pretty penny.

The fine print

A shortage of homes on the market might seem like great news for beleaguered sellers, but Amar warns that buyers are demanding a certain criteria:

"Only properties in good shape, in walking distance to transportation and properly priced disappear right away," he says. Also, Amar doesn't expect this buying frenzy to last past June. "A couple of pieces of advice to sellers: Do not wait — sell now and ask three different brokers for a comparative market analysis, and go with the broker who is aware of this unusual situation and optimistic for the sale of your investment."

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Last week	4.29	3.48	3.24
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Source: Bankrate.com, for more information visit www.bankrate.com. Bankrate national averages are based on 100 largest institutions in the top 10 markets in the United States.

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3 Tips to seal the deal

Spring sees the real estate market abuzz with buyers and sellers out to get the best deal – without having to compromise on what matters most to them We asked two industry insiders for tips on coming out on top

STOCKBYTE

Keep it friendly and play cool in negotiations, says Postilio.

A good broker is key

"Finding a smart broker is essential," says Boston-based realtor Maggie Gold Seelig. "They educate buyers about the market. Each city has its own rhythm. The broker must know the neighborhood and the comparables, or you'll miss opportunities." Comparables are used to determine a property's fair market value via comparing similar recently sold properties in the area. Because a home might have unique qualities or fixtures, though, comparables are only a guide.

Keep your cool

When it comes down to the actual negotiations, it's important to keep things impersonal and amicable.

"Whether you're a buyer or seller, never take anything personally," says HGTV's "Selling New York" cast member Tom Postilio, who heads New York real estate firm CORE. "It's such an emotional purchase. Remove yourself. [Remember] it's business. It's about numbers."

Negotiations shouldn't fixate on price

"There are levers outside of price," says Seelig, "like closing dates and time frames, which might be more important to the seller than holding out on price. For sellers, perhaps there's something you can include to sweeten the deal for the buyer. Always remember to leave something on the table for the other side. The seller and buyer have to feel good about the deal. Never close a door — have a conversation."

LINDA LABAN
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Deal in gridlock?

HGTV's Tom Postilio has advice for both sides:

Sellers should ask:
"Is this the best deal I'm going to get? How long do I want to hold out for?"
Sellers shouldn't:
"Negotiate with anyone whose finances are not in order. If they're not pre-approved, they must [at least] look like strong candidates."

Buyers should ask:
"Can I live happily without this house?"
Buyers shouldn't:
"Leave financing too late. Today with all the hoops the banks make people jump through, pre-approval can take a bit longer."

This month at The Boston Home Center

Since 1996 The Boston Home Center has helped more than 20,000 Bostonians become successful homeowners. We offer an array of FREE classes on everything from the basics of homebuying to help for homeowners and everything in between. Visit www.bostonhomecenter.com for the latest class list and register now!

Financial Assistance Workshops/ Meet The Lenders
A financial assistance workshop from 5:00pm - 6:00pm followed by a two-hour networking opportunity to meet with several different mortgage lenders to help you understand their products and your purchase and refinance options.
April 26 : Hyde Park Branch Library
35 Harvard Street, Allston

CreditSmart®
An 6-hour course to learn everything you need to know about establishing and maintaining a record of good credit, and how to avoid credit traps.
April 11,18, & 25 : 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Uphams Corner Health Center
415 Columbia Rd. Dorchester

How To Live Within Your Means
This two-hour seminar will help you evaluate your current financial status, and to learn how to adjust your finances to accomodate your personal situation.
April 2 : 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Mission Main Community Center
43 Smith Street , Mission Hill

Homebuying 102: How to Buy a Condo
A two-hour seminar for graduates of Homebuying 101 providing information on condo ownership and how to shop for, and finance the purchase of a condo.
April 14 : 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
Copley Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston

Homebuying 103: How to Buy a Home That Needs Work
A two-hour seminar about special mortgages and other resources available to help you fix-up your home.
April 23 : 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Madison Park Village, 122 DeWitt Dr., Roxbury
April 30 : 5:45pm - 7:45pm
Hyde Park Library, 35 Harvard Ave., Hyde Park

Homebuying 104: How to Buy a Foreclosed Property
A two-hour seminar including information about the purchase process, legal issues, mortgage and property selection, and home repair resources.
April 4 : 6:30pm-8:30pm
Uphams Corner Health Center
415 Columbia Rd. Dorchester
April 9 : 6:30pm-8:30pm
Curley Community Center, M St. Senior Center
1663 Columbia Road, South Boston

The Boston Home Center
617-635-HOME (4663)
www.bostonhomecenter.com

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston
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Indo Belmont	5.3 X 7.6	$1,495	$299
Handmade Element	8 X 11	$3,799	$755
Power Loomed Wool Nolita	8 X10	$2,980	$599
Indo Serapi	7.10 X 9.8	$10,415	$2,455

If you have outstanding orders please be assured they are being processed and will not be affected by this sale.